

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (cancelled).

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Claim 3 (currently amended): A ligament shim for insertion into a bone tunnel, the bone tunnel forming a mouth and having at least one ligament extending through the mouth, the at least one ligament and mouth forming an interstitial space, said ligament shim comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, and at least two walls extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;

at least an outer one of the two walls being arc-shaped;

a portion of said body defining a cross-sectional area in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, said cross-sectional area of said portion of said body being slightly oversized relative to a portion of the interstitial space between the wall of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament in a

plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, whereby when said shim is placed in said interstitial space between the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament, said shim will urge the at least one ligament against a wall of the bone tunnel; and

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a rounded bearing surface being formed at said first end of said body, said first end being positionable at a proximal end of the bone tunnel, adjacent the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament, so as to provide a gentle bearing surface for the at least one ligament at the mouth of the bone tunnel, said bearing surface comprising a rounded surface along the first end of said body and extending outwardly and proximally from an inner one of said two walls to an outer one of said two walls, such that the at least one ligament extends adjacent to said rounded surface.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A ligament shim for insertion into a bone tunnel, the bone tunnel forming a mouth and having at least one ligament extending

through the mouth, the at least one ligament and mouth of the bone tunnel forming an interstitial space, said ligament shim comprising:

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a body having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, and at least two walls extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;

a portion of said body defining a cross-sectional area in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, said cross-sectional area of said portion of said body being slightly oversized relative to a portion of the interstitial space between the wall of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, whereby when said shim is placed in said interstitial space between the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament, said shim will urge the at least one ligament against a wall of the bone tunnel; and

a rounded bearing surface being formed at said first end of said body, said first end being positionable at a proximal end of the bone tunnel,

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adjacent the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least
one ligament, so as to provide a gentle bearing surface
for the at least one ligament at the mouth of the bone
tunnel, said bearing surface comprising a rounded
surface along the first end of said body and extending
outwardly and proximally from an inner one of said two
walls to the outer one of said two walls, such that
the at least one ligament extends adjacent to said
rounded surface; and

said body forming a tow hole therethrough between
said first end and said second end thereof, said tow
hole extending substantially orthogonal to said
longitudinal axis, wherein said shim is positionable
within the bone tunnel by pulling a suture inserted
through said tow hole.

Claim 5 (previously amended): A ligament shim
according to claim 4 wherein said shim is suspended
within the bone tunnel by anchoring said suture
inserted through said tow hole at a location distal to
said shim.

b³ Claim 6 (currently amended): A ligament shim for insertion into a bone tunnel, the bone tunnel forming a mouth and having at least one ligament extending through the mouth, the at least one ligament and mouth of the bone tunnel forming an interstitial space, said ligament shim comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, and at least two walls extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;

a portion of said body defining a cross-sectional area in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, said cross-sectional area of said portion of said body being slightly oversized relative to a portion of the interstitial space between the wall of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, whereby when said shim is placed in said interstitial space between the mouth and the at least one ligament, said shim will urge the at least one ligament against a wall of the bone tunnel; and

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a first pair of opposing arcuate surfaces being formed by said at least two walls, said first pair of opposing arcuate surfaces curving inwardly toward one another and being formed substantially along said longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, whereby when said shim is positioned between a first portion of the at least one ligament and a second portion of the at least one ligament in the bone tunnel, said shim will conform to each of the first portion and the second portion, and said shim will urge each of the first portion and the second portion against a wall of the bone tunnel-; and

said first pair of arcuate surfaces each being provided with a rounded bearing surface being formed at said first end of said body, said first end being positionable at a proximal end of the bone tunnel, adjacent the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament, so as to provide a gentle bearing surface for the at least one ligament at the mouth of the bone tunnel-, said bearing surface comprising a rounded surface along the first end of said body and extending outwardly and proximally from an inner one of said two

walls to an outer one of said two walls, such that the
at least one ligament extends adjacent to said rounded
surface.

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Claim 7 (currently amended): A ligament shim according to claim 6 further comprising a second pair of opposing arcuate surfaces being formed by said at least two walls, said second pair of opposing arcuate surfaces curving outwardly away from one another and being formed substantially along said longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, whereby when said shim is positioned between the first portion of the at least one ligament and the second portion of the at least one ligament in the bone tunnel, said second pair of opposing arcuate surfaces conforms to the wall of the bone tunnel; and said second pair of arcuate surfaces each being provided with a rounded bearing surface being formed at said first end of said body, said first end being positionable at a proximal end of the bone tunnel, adjacent the mouth of the bone tunnel and the at least one ligament, so as to provide a gentle bearing surface for the at least one ligament at

the mouth of the bone tunnel-, said bearing surface comprising a rounded surface along the first end of said body and extending outwardly and proximally from an inner one of said two walls to an outer one of said two walls, such that the at least one ligament extends adjacent to said rounded surface.

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Claim 8 (currently amended) A ligament shim for insertion into a bone tunnel, the bone tunnel forming a mouth and having at least one ligament extending through the mouth, the at least one ligament and mouth of the bone tunnel forming an interstitial space, said ligament shim comprising:

a body having a first end and a second end, a longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, and at least two walls extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis;

a portion of said body from said first end and said second end defining a cross-sectional area in a plane substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis, said cross-sectional area of said portion of said body being slightly oversized relative to a portion of

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first and second pairs of opposing arcuate surfaces being formed by said at least two walls, each of said first and second pairs of opposing arcuate surfaces curving inwardly toward one another, respectively, and said each of said first and second pairs of opposing arcuate surfaces being formed substantially along said longitudinal axis from said first end to said second end, whereby when said shim is placed between first, second, third, and fourth portions of the at least one ligament in the bone tunnel, said shim will conform to each of the first, second, third, and fourth portions, and the shim will urge each of the first, second, third, and fourth portions against a wall of the bone tunnel; and each of said arcuate surfaces being provided with a rounded

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bearing surface being formed at said first end of said
body, said first end being positionable at a proximal
end of the bone tunnel, adjacent the mouth of the bone
tunnel and the at least one ligament, so as to provide
a gentle bearing surface for the at least one ligament
at the mouth of the bone tunnel-, said surface
comprising a rounded surface along the first end of
said body and extending outwardly and proximally from
an inner one of said two walls to an outer one of said
two walls, such that the at least one ligament extends
adjacent to said rounded surface.
